

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN NOVEMBER 2005

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 34,800 metric tons (t) in November, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was a decrease of about 8% compared with production in October 2005 and a decrease of about 1% compared with that of November 2004. Secondary refined lead production (96,400 t) increased slightly compared with that of the previous month, and reported consumption (122,000 t) was unchanged compared with that of October. When compared with that of November 2004, secondary production was up by about 2% and reported consumption was up by about 7%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average November North American producer price increased nominally, less than 0.1%, from that of the previous month to 60.86 cents per pound and was also about 0.3% higher than the November 2004 price. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in November ranged from a low of \$989 per

metric ton (November 2) to a high of \$1,064 per metric ton (November 30), and averaged \$1,017.91 per metric ton, about a 1% increase compared with the October average price and also a 5% increase compared with the price in November 2004. During November, global LME lead stocks decreased by 7,900 t to finish the month at 41,350 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in November, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 4,300 t (4,740 short tons), with an approximate value of \$4.4 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

## Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces lead BOA sales for November 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, December 5, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons lead content unless otherwise specified)

	2004		2005		
	Year	January - November	October	November	January - November
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	430,000	398,000	37,900	34,800	392,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	1,020,000	93,800	94,200	1,020,000
Estimated	11,300	10,300	947	951	10,300
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup>	15,000	13,800	1,250	1,250	13,800
Total secondary	1,140,000	1,050,000	95,900	96,400	1,040,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	66,100	65,600	60,900 <sup>r</sup>	61,900	61,900
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	3	3	--	NA	29 <sup>2</sup>
Refined metal	197,000	177,000	28,200	NA	244,000 <sup>2</sup>
Consumption:					
Reported	1,480,000	1,350,000	122,000	122,000	1,340,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	45,700 <sup>r</sup>	41,900	3,790	3,770	41,500
Total	1,520,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,400,000	126,000	126,000	1,380,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	292,000	246,000	9,640	NA	359,000 <sup>2</sup>
Bullion	129	593	7	NA	141 <sup>2</sup>
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,400	91,700	5,600	NA	49,000 <sup>2</sup>
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,020	494	99	NA	1,240 <sup>2</sup>
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	56,300	87,100	5,330	NA	56,600 <sup>2</sup>
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	55.14	54.63	60.82	60.86	60.69

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes data for January - October only; November data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2  
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2004:				
November	60.70	967.26	519.84	1.860680
December	60.73	974.39	505.22	1.928639
Year	55.14	885.95	483.26	1.832475
2005:				
September	60.60	932.27	516.05	1.806548
October	60.82	1,004.17	568.91	1.765090
November	60.86	1,017.91	586.72	1.734910

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	October 31, 2005			November 30, 2005
Battery-lead	18,700	91,100	90,700	19,100
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	7,810	5,210	4,900	8,120
Total	26,500	96,300	95,600	27,200
Percent change from preceding month	XX	1.0	-0.7	2.7

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4  
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM  
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	70,600	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	23,200	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	377	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	94,200	143	308

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."  
-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>3</sup>Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2004		2005		
	January - December	January - November <sup>r</sup>	October	November	January - November
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,500	56,400	5,150	4,850	54,300
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	4,190	3,840	367	372	3,370
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	5,540	5,070	414	467	6,290
Casting metals	17,900	16,400	1,500	1,490	16,400
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,400	29,700	2,860	2,730	29,900
Solder	7,440	6,820	550	533	6,610
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	1,180,000	107,000	107,000	1,170,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	1,770	1,620	185	185	2,020
Total metal products	1,420,000	1,300,000	118,000	117,000	1,290,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	59,600	54,600	4,650	4,650	51,800
Total reported	1,480,000	1,350,000	122,000	122,000	1,340,000
Undistributed <sup>e</sup>	45,700 <sup>r</sup>	41,900	3,790	3,770	41,500
Grand total	1,520,000 <sup>r</sup>	1,400,000	126,000	126,000	1,380,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

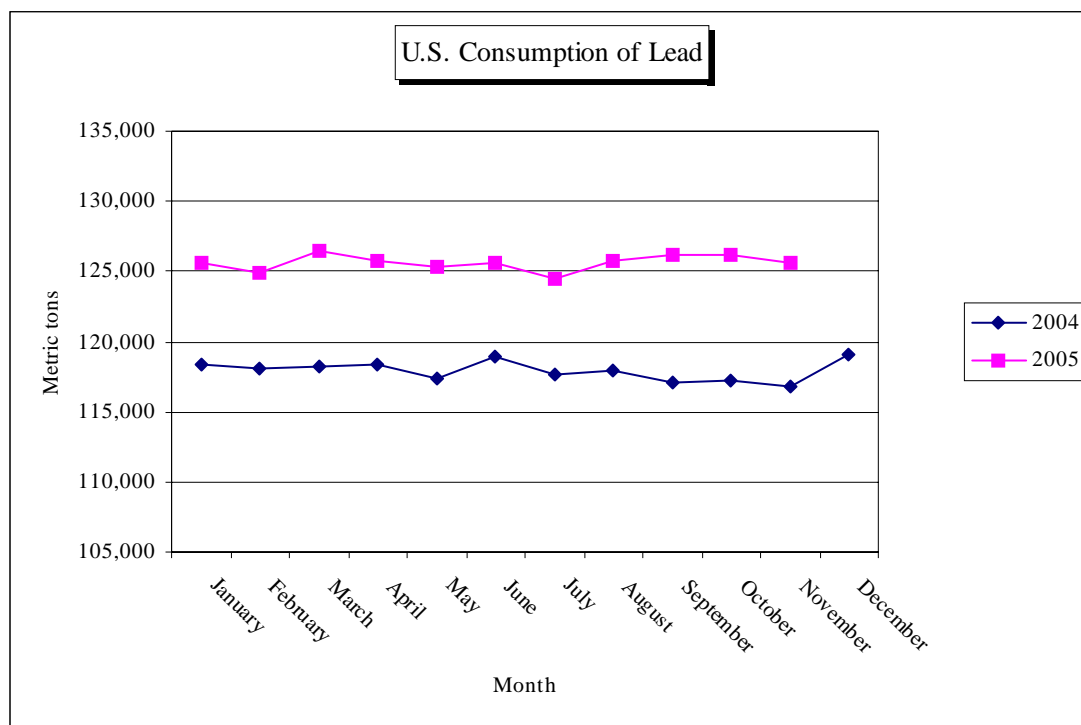


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS,  
AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks	Net	Consumption	Stocks
	October 31, 2005	receipts		November 30, 2005
Soft lead	33,300	66,600	66,200	33,700
Antimonial lead	11,500	36,400	35,800	12,100
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	60,900	122,000	121,000	61,900

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2004		2005		
	October	Year	September	October	January - October
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	58,600	292,000	89,800	9,640	359,000
Bullion	20 <sup>r</sup>	129	--	7	141
Materials excluding scrap	5,650	82,400	3,000	5,600	49,000
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	40 <sup>r</sup>	1,020	30	99	1,240
Total	64,300	375,000	92,900	15,400	410,000
Gross weight: Scrap	4,700	56,300	4,760	5,330	56,600

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2004		2005			2004		2005		
	Year	January - October	September	October	January - October	Year	January - October	September	October	January - October
Base bullion:										
Canada	--	--	--	--	18	--	--	--	--	18
Mexico	3	3	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	10
Total	3	3	--	--	29	3	3	--	--	29
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	18,800	13,700	13,000	5,680	6,130	38,900
Canada	166,000	130,000	8,380	15,200	151,000	166,000	130,000	8,380	15,200	151,000
Mexico	8,810	8,230	1,790	1,970	13,100	8,810	8,230	1,790	1,970	13,100
Peru	7,270	4,790	2,520	1,460	17,500	7,270	4,790	2,520	1,460	17,500
Other	1,310	1,260 <sup>r</sup>	6,620	3,490	24,000	1,450	1,390 <sup>r</sup>	6,620	3,490	24,000
Total	183,000	144,000	19,300	22,100	224,000	197,000	157,000	25,000	28,200	244,000
Grand total	183,000	144,000	19,300	22,100	224,000	197,000	157,000	25,000	28,200	244,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.